

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Board shorts for use during surfing or similar activities, including: a first portion fabricated from relatively less elastic material, said first portion comprising the majority of said shorts, and a second portion fabricated from relatively more elastic material, said second portion configured and positioned in said shorts to provide elastic stretching of said second portion during movement of the wearer's body; said second portion comprising a single undivided path of material within the first portion of the shorts, said path extending from the front of one thigh of a first leg of said shorts, upward along the first leg, around the side of the shorts to the back of the shorts, across the back of the shorts, around the other side of the shorts, downward along the second leg to the front of the second thigh of said shorts.
2. (Currently amended) The shorts of Claim 1, in which said second portion includes an elongated section extending from a lower edge of a first leg of said shorts around behind and across the buttocks area of the shorts and down to a lower edge of a second leg of said shorts.
3. (Original) The shorts of Claim 1, in which said shorts are sized and configured to be normally relatively loose on the wearer and said second portion is sized and positioned to return to a relatively unstretched condition after said movement of the wearer's body.
4. (Original) The short of Claim 1, in which said second portion is positioned as an elongated strip of material connected at most of its edges to said relatively inelastic first portion material.
5. (Original) The short of Claim 1 or Claim 2 or Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which said second portion is fabricated from elastomeric foam.
6. (Original) The short of Claim 1 or Claim 2 or Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which said second portion is fabricated from 4-way stretch neoprene.
7. (Currently amended) A board short constructed substantially from relatively less non-elastic material, including a relatively more elastic integral neoprene panel affixed at adjacent frontal thigh areas of opposing leg sections edges to said relatively less elastic material and traversing between those

front areas in a continuous arcuate path around the sides and the back of the short and not around the front of the short, said integral neoprene panel positioned between said relatively less elastic material to form an integral portion of said garment, said integral neoprene panel being in a relatively loose and unstretched position when the wearer is in a standing position.

8. (Original) The short of Claim 7, in which said neoprene panel comprises an elongated strip integrally fabricated within the body of the short.

9. (Currently amended) A garment fabricated from a material other than neoprene, except that said garment ~~has~~ing neoprene stretch means substantially bisecting at a selected position in the body of said garment, the neoprene stretch means extending between adjacent lower front areas on opposite extremity sections of said garment in a single path and not around both the front and back of the wearer, said garment being sized to fit relatively loosely on the wearer, said stretch means permitting expansion of said garment during certain flexing of the wearer's body.

10. (Original) The garment of Claim 9, in which said neoprene stretch means comprises an elongated strip of neoprene integrally fabricated within the body of the garment.

11. (Currently amended) Board shorts for use during surfing or similar activities, including: a central portion fabricated from a material other than neoprene and configured to loosely cover a wearer's lower torso; and a neoprene panel extending in an arcuate manner through and forming a part of said central portion, the neoprene panel curving from the upper back of the shorts around the sides of the wearer and downward to lower front thigh portions of said shorts, and not extending across the front of the wearer.

12. (Original) The shorts of Claim 11, further including at least one leg portion connected to said central portion; and said neoprene panel also extending through and forming a part of said at least one leg portion.

13. (Original) The shorts of Claim 11, in which said at least one leg portion is configured to loosely cover at least the upper section of one of the wearer's legs.

14. (Original) The shorts of Claim 11 or Claim 12 or Claim 13, in which said neoprene panel is positioned within said shorts to stretch from its normal relaxed state in response to leg movement of the wearer.

15. (Withdrawn) A garment intended for wear about a person's lower trunk, the garment having material forming a back portion, a front portion, a first leg covering, and a second leg covering, wherein the improvement comprises:

at least one portion of neoprene located between adjacent portions of relatively less-stretchable garment material, positioned on the garment to stretch in response body movement of the wearer.

16. (Withdrawn) The garment of Claim 15, said stretchable material having a substantially arcuate shape, said neoprene positioned along a top area of the back portion, and extending continuously along a length of each of the first leg covering and the second leg covering.

17. (Withdrawn) The garment of Claim 15, wherein said neoprene extends along an entire length of each of the first leg covering and the second leg covering.

18. (Withdrawn) The garment of Claim 16, wherein said neoprene tapers, from a relatively wider center back section both directions to a relatively narrower section along each said length of the first leg covering and the second leg covering.

19. (Withdrawn) The garment of Claim 18, wherein the widest portion of said neoprene along the center top area of the back portion is approximately 2.5 inches wide and the narrowest portion of said relatively narrower section along each leg covering is approximately 1.5 inches wide.

20. (Withdrawn) The garment of Claim 1 or Claim 15, wherein said less-stretchable material is a polyester/spandex.

21. (Withdrawn) The garment according to Claim 18, 19, or 20 wherein the relatively less-stretchable sections of the back portion, front portion, first leg covering, and second leg covering each are constructed of the same relatively less-stretchable material.

22. (Withdrawn) A shirt for wear by a person, the shirt having first garment material forming a front portion, a back portion, a first arm covering, and a second arm covering, wherein the improvement comprises:

a stretchable material located between said first garment material, said stretchable material having a substantially arcuate shape, said stretchable material positioned substantially horizontally along a top area of the back portion, and extending continuously along a length of each of the first arm covering and the second arm covering.

23. (Withdrawn) The shirt of Claim 22, wherein said stretchable material extends along an entire length of each of the first arm covering and the second arm covering.

24. (Withdrawn) The shirt of Claim 23, wherein said stretchable material along the top area of the back portion is approximately 2.5 inches wide.

25. (Withdrawn) The shirt of Claim 24, wherein said stretchable material tapers in width from the back portion to a width of approximately 1.5 inches at the distal portions of each said length of the first arm covering and the second arm covering.

26. (Withdrawn) The shirt of Claim 23 or Claim 24, wherein said stretchable material is neoprene.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a garment, including the steps of:

providing a main garment portion fabricated from relatively less-stretchable material, said main garment portion sized and configured to fit loosely on the wearer;

providing a second garment portion, said second portion fabricated from relatively more stretchable neoprene material, said second portion sized and configured to fit loosely on the wearer and is stretched only in response to body movement of the wearer from a normal relaxed position;

assembling said second garment portion between sections of said main garment portion, said assembled main and second garment portion each covering separate areas of the wearer's body and collectively covering a desired area of the wearer's body.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further including providing said second garment portion in the form of an elongated strip having first and second longitudinal edges generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said strip, said strip also having first and second ends at the extremities of the longitudinal axis of said strip, said method including the further steps of positioning said first end to form a portion of an edge of the garment, attaching said first and second longitudinal edges to corresponding edges of said main garment portion, and positioning said second end of said strip to form another portion of an edge of the garment.

29. (Currently amended) A garment adapted to be worn about a portion of the body and at least one limb of a person, the garment comprising:

a first limb section adapted to receive within and permit to pass therethrough one limb of the person;

a torso section having a back portion and a front portion, said back portion and said front portion adapted to receive a portion of a person's torso; and

an elongated strip of material relatively more stretchable than adjacent materials in said limb section and said torso section, said elongated strip positioned across ~~in~~ at least substantially all ~~of one of~~ the back portions of the torso section and not across the front portion of the torso section and extending into at least a part of a front portion of said first limb section so that certain rotations of said limb with respect to the wearer's torso cause the elongated strip to stretch.

30. (Original) The garment of Claim 29, wherein said fourth section elongated strip of material extends along an entire length of each said first limb section and said second torso section.

31. (Original) The garment of Claim 29 or Claim 30, further including a second limb section similar to said first limb section, said second limb section adapted to receive within and permit to pass therethrough the opposing limb of the person, said torso section joining together said first limb section and said second limb section.

32. (Original) The garment of Claim 31, in which said elongated strip of relatively stretchable material has a substantially arcuate shape, with a portion of said relatively stretchable material positioned along a central back area of the garment, said elongated strip of relatively stretchable material extending continuously along a length of each said first limb section and said second limb section.

33. (Original) The garment of Claim 29, wherein said stretchable material is elastomeric foam.

34. (Original) The garment of Claim 31, in which said garment is sized and configured to fit loosely rather than snugly against the wearer's body when the wearer is in a normal standing position.

35. (Original) The garment of Claim 31, wherein the elongated strip of relatively stretchable material extends continuously from an edge of the first limb section remote from said torso section, across said first limb section and said torso section and said second limb section, to an edge of the second limb section remote from said torso section.

36. (Original) The garment of Claim 31, wherein said torso section, said first limb section, and said second limb comprise a garment body having a first edge and an opposing edge remote therefrom, and the elongated strip of relatively stretchable material extends from one garment edge across the garment body to the opposing garment edge.

37. (Currently amended) The shorts of Claim 1, in which said second portion is a solid piece of material without any internal seams. ~~A portion of neoprene material in a garment, said portion having an edge joined to abutting relatively less elastic material in the garment, said neoprene portion comprising an integral portion of the garment rather than overlying other portions of the garment.~~